



MINUTES of the OPEN section of the meeting of the OVERVIEW and SCRUTINY Committee held on TUESDAY 13th APRIL 2004 at 6.00 p.m. at SOUTHWARK TOWN HALL, PECKHAM ROAD, LONDON SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor Kim HUMPHREYS (Chair)
Councillors Linda MANCHESTER, Andy SIMMON, Anne YATES,
Gavin OBRIEN.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Caroline PIDGEON

OFFICER Shelley Burke - Head of Overview & Scrutiny
SUPPORT: Stephanie Dunstan – Scrutiny Team
Graham Love – Community Councils Manager
Rachael Prosser – Senior Legal Advisor

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Neil Watson, Councillor Eliza Mann, Councillor Barrie Hargrove and Councillor John Friary.

NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMED URGENT

None.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures made nor interests declared.

RECORDING OF MEMBERS' VOTES

Council Procedure Rule 1.17(5) allows a Member to record her/his vote in respect of any motions and amendments. Such requests are detailed in the following Minutes. Should a Member's vote be recorded in respect to an amendment, a copy of the amendment may be found in the Minute File and is available for public inspection.

The Committee considered the items set out on the agenda, a copy of which has been incorporated in the Minute File. Each of the following paragraphs relates to the item bearing the same number on the agenda.

1. **CALL IN: EXECUTIVE DECISION [ITEM 7 30/03/04] IN RESPECT OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

The Chair (Cllr Humphreys) opened the meeting and invited Cllr Simmons to explain the reason for the call in.

Cllr Simmons explained that he wanted to know the relationship between the crime figures and allocation of money to community councils for community safety purposes, in particular the maintenance of CCTV cameras. He presented to the committee a recent response to a council question containing crime figures for Southwark wards (Appendix A)

The Chair proposed an adjournment of 5 minutes to read the information contained in Appendix A.

Proposal was unanimously agreed by the Committee and meeting adjourned at 6.05pm.

Meeting reconvened at 6.10pm.

The Chair invited Cllr Pidgeon to respond to Cllr Simmons question.

Cllr Pidgeon explained that allocation of community council funding was similar to last years funding with £250,000 being allocated to each community council. Additional funding had been allocated to 'priority neighbourhoods' which had been identified by the Southwark Strategic Alliance. A population determinant had also been built into the allocation of extra funding. The funding is available for each community council to spend as they see fit, which could if they wanted be spent on CCTV cameras. There is also an additional £1M for Community Councils to bid for to create safer playgrounds.

Cllr Pidgeon explained that the Southwark Strategic Alliance had identified 'priority neighbourhoods' based on an assesment which included local crime levels. She commented that she felt this was a fair way to allocate funding as the Strategic Alliance was politically neutral and comprised of a number of essential community groups. If funding was allocated purely on the levels of crime in neighbourhoods then funding would be unfair with Peckham and Dulwich receiving the same amount of funding.

Mr. Love (Community Councils Manager) commented that using 'priority neighbourhoods' was the most effective and fair way to allocate funding.

Cllr Simmons commented that the formula for funding did not seem to address Cleaner, Greener, Safer priorities to reduce street crime and robberies. He commented that he had met with Peckham Police Officers who did not think the formula was effective because there was no funding to upgrade and maintain CCTV cameras, which means that many CCTV cameras in Southwark are not playing their part in reducing crime.

Cllr Pidgeon explained that she could not comment on the issue of funding for maintenance of CCTV cameras as she did not realize this topic would be raised.

Cllr Simmons commented that the Police do not appear to understand how the funding formula works to maintain CCTV cameras and that an opportunity to merge Cleaner, Greener, Safer funding and Community Safety money into one formula should be examined. The issue is that in Southwark many CCTV cameras need upgrading or maintenance to be used to be able to reduce street crime.

Mr. Love commented that there were a number of ways funding to combat street crime could be granted, including 'Renewal Strategy' funding and NRF funding.

The Chair suggested that the forthcoming strategic review of Community Councils could consider this matter. He proposed that the matter should not be referred back to the Executive.

Cllr Simmons proposed that item should be referred back to the Executive for them to reconsider funding allocation levels for Community Councils and consider the link between funding levels and the need to have adequate funding to maintain CCTV cameras.

The proposal was put to a vote and was lost.

RESOLVED: That the Executive in the next stage of the strategic review of Community Councils examine the link between funding levels and community safety, and that members should be provided with a briefing on the issue of maintenance of the CCTV cameras.

The Meeting closed at 6.30pm

CHAIR:

DATED: